(b) whether there is any proposal to take up more non-project aids for reforms in a speedy way;

(c) the total aid received by India during the last three years from the Consortium and the major projects for which the funds were utilised;

(d) whether more aid is proposed to be sought from the consortium; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) Funds pledged at the Aid India consortium are being utilised for a number of development projects in various sectors of the economy such as Agriculture, Energy, Fertilizer, Industry, Infrastructure, Irrigation, Urban Development and Social Sectors. Projects-wise details are contained in the Brochure on External Assistance published by the Ministry of Finance. Acopy of Brochure for 1989-90 has been placed in the Library of the House.

(b) Aid negotiations are a continuous process. Relative importance of Both the project as well as non-project aid is kept in view depending on the investment requirements of the economy and Balance of Payment support necessary to meet the situation.

(c) The total aid received by India during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 from the Consortium has been Rs. 4946 crores, Rs. 5447 crores, and Rs. 6287 crores respectively. The major projects financed by this assistance are in Agriculture, Energy, Industry. Fertilizer. Infrastructure, Irrigation, Urban Development and Social sectors.

(d) and (e) Government of India will make a strong case for increased level of aid pledges from the donors at the India Consortium Meeting scheduled for 19th & 20th September, 1991.

[*Translation*] 205

Exports by State Trading Corporation

5967. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports made by the State Trading Corporation during 1990-91 are much less as compared to 1989-90;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to increase the exports by the State Trading Corporation during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) Major reasons for lower exports by STC during 1990-91 are:-

—Decision of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to buy rice directly from Indian traders rather than through STC;

—Discontinuance of purchase of footwear components by certain major buyers in erstwhile GDR;

—Lower exports of castor oil to RPA because of exports directly from Kandla Free Trade Zone;

—Temporary freezing of counter trade arrangements against a defence contract;

—Adverse impact of the Gulf crisis on the export of a number of items;

—Lower exports to USSR because of

re-structuring of trading organisations in USSR.

(c) STC has drawn a detailed Action Plan to increase its exports during the current financial year by setting a target of Rs. 662 Crores which envisages an increase of 79% over the exports in 1990-91. The Action Plan for the current financial year lays emphasis on the following aspect:-

—Direct buying and selling

—Identifying new areas of exports

—Creation of captive supply base

—Third country trading etc.

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Loans Granted by Banks for Higher Education

[*English*]

5968. DR. G.L.KANAUJIA:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks provide educational loans at concessional rate of interest to students for persuing higher studies;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme under which such loans are given;

(c) whether any eligibility criteria has been fixed for granting loans under the above scheme;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the amount of such loans advanced by the various during the last three years, year-wise and bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The rates of interest on all bank loans including educational loans have been linked with the size of the loan in terms of revised interest rate structure prescribed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Accordingly rate of interest for educational loans ranges between 10.0 per cent p.a. for loans upto and inclusive of Rs. 7,500/- and 18.5 per cent p.a. for loans over Rs. 2 lakhs.

(b) to (d). In terms of RBI guidelines to priority sector advances, educational loans include loans and advances granted to individual students for educational proposes and include all advances granted by banks under special schemes, introduced by them for educational purposes. In terms of instructions issued by RBI, banks have been advised to adhere to the following guidelines:

(i) Banks may consider consistently good academic record of the students as adequate for satisfying the eligibility criteria.

(ii) For job oriented courses recognised by Government/Universities a diploma will not be compulsory and banks should also consider requests for loans for taking up any other certificate courses recognised by Government/Universities while extending financial assistance.

(iii) Eligible students fulfilling the terms and conditions of Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme will be also be covered.

(iv) No minimum or maximum quantum for the amount of educational loan has been prescribed. Banks may continue to sanction need-based finance.

(e) : Bank-wise disbursement of advances by scheduled commercial banks for educational purposes during the year end June, 1987, June, 1988 and June 1989 are given in Statement I and II.